

From: Dave Dahl
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/19/01 10:05am
Subject: DOJ missed the bigger monopoly case against MS

Bigger than the browser antitrust issue, please look into why Microsoft owns 98% of the word processing market. This was far more devastating to consumers than the browser issue.

In a textbook monopoly move, Microsoft systematically removed WordPerfect and other hopefuls as choice we might have for word processors.

Around 1995-96, WordPerfect dominated with it's \$495 product. People loved it and tech support was free. Then, Microsoft released Word for Windows at \$99, a price point they knew would destroy WordPerfect. Consumers cheered as \$99 became the new price for a word processor. Microsoft's could low ball Word because revenue from Microsoft's OS division paid the bills. Their plan worked and WordPerfect all but died. One might say that's competition, but here's the problem.

Fast forward to 2001 and Microsoft no longer offers Word for \$99. With competition eliminated, Word now sells for \$339!!!! Do we get added value for the extra price? No, they eliminated the competition so they can charge anything. Free tech support like before? Ha, get out your credit card. We all pay their price because they removed our choice. The monopoly worked.

Bigger problem is, MS Word is not a good program, and we're all forced to use it.

PLEASE DOJ. You must stop this activity so software authors can innovate in the future.

Thank you,
Dave Dahl

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